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### Democratic National Convention 2nd Nominating Johnson

Mike Mansfield 1903-2001

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#### Recommended Citation

Mansfield, Mike 1903-2001, "Democratic National Convention 2nd Nominating Johnson" (1960). *Mike Mansfield Speeches, Statements and Interviews*. 420.

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July 11-137

My fellow Delegates:

The name of an outstanding American, an outstanding democrat, an outstanding Senator has just been placed before this convention. I want to speak to that nomination as one who has known Lyndon B. Johnson as a friend and great public servant through almost two decades of service in the House and Senate.

Democratic delegates, when you consider this nominee along with the others, think in terms of the mission of the Democratic Party and what he has done to advance it. This party of ours is not the party which divides. It is the party which unites. It is not the party of special interests. It is the party of all law-abiding interests--farmer, labor and business. It is not the party of Catholic, Protestant or Jew. It is the party of all religions. It is not the party of a section of the nation. It is the party of the entire nation.

Look at this party in its totality. Then look at the record of Lyndon Johnson in relation to this totality. It is easy enough to make campaign pledges to the farmers in North Dakota, to negroes in New York, to labor leaders in Detroit, to shippers in Seattle or to ranchers in Montana. But this party did not win its landslide Congressional victory in 1958 on campaign pledges. It won it on the record. And it won it on a record made in great part in the Congress of the United States. We democrats in office have tried to meet the needs of all sections and groups of Americans who look to the democratic party for leadership.



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And in the Senate, we did it under the leadership of Lyndon B. Johnson. His was the great responsibility, the thankless but essential job of "tending the store" that had to be done for the party and the nation.

Ask yourselves, my fellow democrats, whether or not Lyndon B. Johnson's leadership in the most responsible position occupied by a democrat during these past eight years held this party together or separated it. Ask yourselves whether or not he did as much as any man could do to fill the hole in national leadership left by the wholesale abdication of responsibility by this weak and aimless Republican Administration. Ask yourselves whether or not--on the verge of this 1960 Presidential campaign--we would now be in a position to move on to national victory without the job of leadership which Lyndon B. Johnson performed in the United States Senate during the past six years.

Test Lyndon B. Johnson's leadership, I ask you, in specifics. Test it in the blocking of the Landrum-Griffin bill, that thoroughly obnoxious measure supported by the Administration in the Congress last year. Had it passed it would have alienated and, rightly so, millions of men and women of organized labor from the ranks of the Democratic Party. Time and again Lyndon B. Johnson sent the Senate conferees back into conference until as reasonable a compromise as was possible with the House was obtained.



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Test Lyndon B. Johnson's leadership in civil rights legislation. All the democratic candidates stand for human equality. The party has advocated equal rights for all citizens for as long as most of us can remember. But the path to the achievement of this great American ideal has to be paved with the back-breaking labor of shaping effective law. And I say to you delegates that while goodwill in these matters is characteristic of all the democratic candidates and even the Republican candidates, Lyndon Johnson--above all others--is responsible for the only two civil rights laws which have reached the statute books since the Civil War. And I say to you further that he has achieved this result without reading millions out of the ranks of the democratic party.

Test the leadership of Lyndon Johnson in agriculture. He has gone down the line time and again for the farmers and the farm economy. He has worked shoulder to shoulder with the great Mid-West Senator, Hubert H. Humphrey, in attempting to develop a considerate, rational approach to the problems of the independent farmer. He has consistently supported the efforts of Senator Humphrey to get this Administration to use farm abundances for the human welfare of Americans in need and to advance the cause of international peace. And in North Dakota not too long ago we had an indication of what this kind of leadership is going to mean in the Middle West in November.

Fellow delegates, name your own specifics and test the achievements of Lyndon Johnson's leadership in serving the total mission of the Democratic Party which is to serve all Americans. Has he promoted the unity of the party? Has he acted to safeguard the essential unity of the nation beyond party?



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It is one thing to promise to lead. It is another to lead a party and a nation from the most responsible position in this government after that of the Presidency, the majority leadership of the Senate. It is in that maelstrom of conflicting interests and pressures that he has gained his experience. It is in that crucible of political ambitions that Lyndon B. Johnson's ability to put party and nation above self--the ultimate test of leadership--has been proven.

Having been an eye-witness to the forging of Lyndon B. Johnson's great record by his workdays of 16 to 20 hours, by his bearing of insults and innuendoes with restraint, by his advancing of others into the limelight in the interests of the party and the nation, it grieves me now to hear him referred to as unsuitable because he is a southerner. I do not rightly know whether, geographically speaking, Lyndon Johnson ought to be identified as a southerner, a westerner or a southwesterner. But I want to say to this convention that the bigotry of sectionalism has no place among democrats and we ought to condemn it with the same vigor which we direct at religious bigotry. I refuse to believe that any American born in Texas is, from the moment of his birth, automatically excluded from consideration for any public office in the land.

I remind you that under the Constitution, even as there are no religious qualifications, there are also no sectional qualifications for the Presidency. May I urge that we take to heart the insights of the founding fathers in drawing up the Constitution. If we cannot show ourselves as wise as they, let us at least reveal ourselves as tolerant as they were more than 130 years ago.



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I submit to you, democratic delegates, that every American has to be born in some section of the nation. He is usually born into one religion or another. He has to be born of one color or another and of one sex or another. But all are Americans and, in the eyes of this party even as in the eyes of the Constitution, all must be regarded as equals. These factors, therefore, are not and cannot be the basis for a choice worthy of this party. I urge you to ignore them even as I know that all decent Americans in their wisdom will ignore them. I urge you to bear in mind, as representatives of the party of all the people, your one deep and overriding responsibility. That responsibility is to choose a candidate whose vision, whose maturity of judgment, whose experience, whose compassion, whose dedication to the nation best equips him to lead all the people of the United States. I urge you in making that choice to turn to the outstanding American, to the outstanding democrat whose nomination I now second--I urge you to turn to Lyndon B. Johnson.